

PRESIDING OFFICER'S  
RULING NO. MC2004-1/5

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

Experimental Periodicals  
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Docket No. MC2004-1

PRESIDING OFFICER'S RULING  
ESTABLISHING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

(Issued May 27, 2004)

On May 18, 2004, the Postal Service filed a motion requesting a procedural mechanism and a schedule to bring this docket to a conclusion.<sup>1</sup> The Postal Service believes that no participant intends to conduct additional discovery, or intends to seek a hearing. It also believes that there is substantial support for, and no opposition to, a settlement in this docket. Within its Motion, the Postal Service suggests a schedule for designation of direct testimony and written cross-examination (along with supporting declarations), filing of signature pages to a proposed Stipulation and Agreement attached to its Motion, and initial and reply comments in regard to the proposed settlement. No participant has filed a pleading in opposition to the Postal Service's Motion.

The Postal Service's motion to establish a procedural mechanism is granted. Granting this motion obviates the need to conduct the June 16, 2004 hearing on the Postal Service's direct case. The schedule (see Attachment) that is established by this

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<sup>1</sup> United States Postal Service Motion for Establishment of a Procedural Mechanism and Schedule Governing Further Proceedings in Light of Projected Settlement, May 18, 2004 (Motion).

ruling provides slightly more time for participants to comply with deadlines than proposed by the Postal Service.

Participants may designate interrogatory responses to be included in the record as written cross-examination. Designations shall be filed by June 3, 2004. Two copies of the designated material shall be provided to the Commission at that time.

The Postal Service, by motion, shall request the Commission to enter witness testimony, the designated written cross-examination, and any Postal Service designated written counter-cross-examination into the record. The motion shall include a declaration/affidavit from the witness attesting to the proposed record material. This motion is due June 8, 2004.

Participants that intend to sign the Stipulation and Agreement are to return signed signature pages to the Postal Service and file signature pages with the Commission by June 8, 2004. By motion, the Postal Service shall request that the Commission accept the Stipulation and Agreement as the basis of its Opinion and Recommended Decision in concluding this docket. This motion is due June 8, 2004.

Comments, if any, on the settlement are due June 15, 2004. Reply comments, if any, are due June 21, 2004.

Ruling

1. United States Postal Service Motion for Establishment of a Procedural Mechanism and Schedule Governing Further Proceedings in Light of Projected Settlement, May 18, 2004 is granted consistent with the body of this ruling and Attachment.
  
2. The hearing on the Postal Service's direct case scheduled for June 16, 2004 is cancelled.

Dana B. Covington, Sr.  
Presiding Officer

**DOCKET NO. MC2004-1**  
**PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

Designation of written cross-examination	June 3, 2004
Stipulation and Agreement signature pages returned to the Postal Service and filed with the Commission	June 8, 2004
Postal Service motion to place testimony into record	June 8, 2004
Postal Service motion in regard to Stipulation and Agreement	June 8, 2004
Comments on settlement	June 15, 2004
Reply comments on settlement	June 21, 2004